



## MEPPERSHALL GOLF SOCIETY

Inaugural matches played at:

Top: Mount Pleasant Golf Club, Lower Stondon (9th August 2025)

Bottom: Stevenage Golf and Conference Centre (6th September 2025)

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## Editorial by James Read



This month we celebrate! And not just Meppershall Golf Society's growing membership (see cover – although I am no golfer!) Firstly we celebrate Meppershall Parish Council's achievement in the Living Countryside Awards, 2025. The award scheme, run by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) considers projects that best promote a living and thriving countryside and the winners are chosen by a public vote.

Meppershall achieved a commendation for the work of the Parish Council in taking the lead to develop green spaces around the village and involving local people in the projects. This included Meppershall's large allotment area, restoration of a nature reserve and improvement of play areas. The award recognised the role of the local volunteers who restored and planted 400 metres of hedgerow and are now working on plans for a wildflower area. Huge congratulations to everyone involved, especially all the volunteers who made these things happen. The overall winner of the Bedfordshire Choice category was the newly opened Clophill Lakes Nature Reserve, which took 20% of all the votes.

Regarding Meppershall, CPRE said, "It was lovely to meet you and to visit and hear all about the greenspaces in the Parish, they are an asset to the community." The judges were particularly impressed by the ambitions to make the nature spaces in Meppershall even better and drive further opportunities for volunteer involvement.

Next, a celebration at the church which is holding very special open afternoon on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October (page 16) with lots of fun things happening and some great tea and cake. The village celebrates the completion of the church restoration work. The church tower now shines out for miles around with its beautifully refurbished facade. A special service for the community follows on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October, with the bishop.

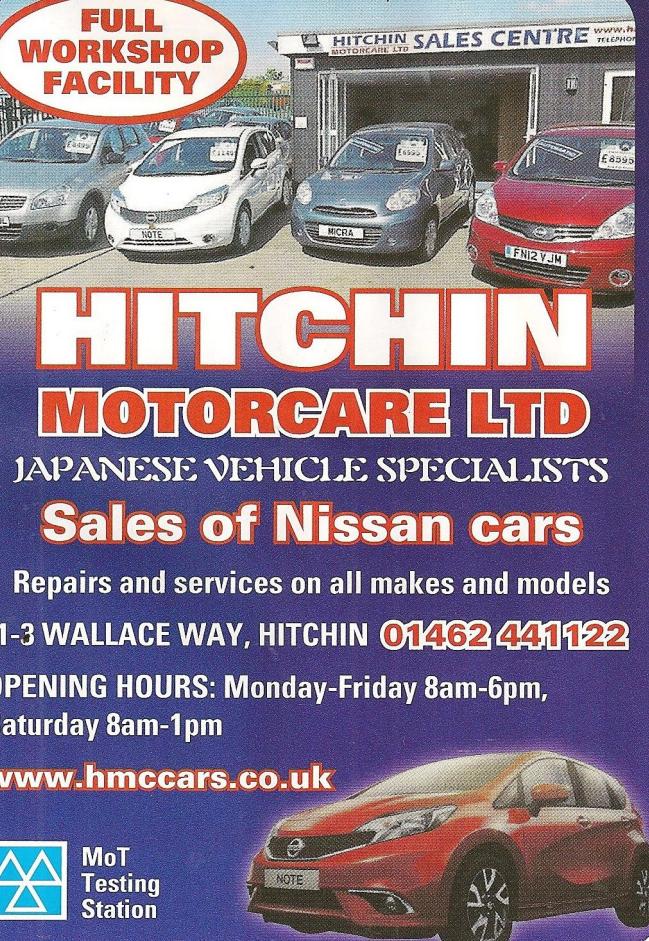
Meppershall is a friendly place for well-behaved trick-or-treaters on 31<sup>st</sup> October. There are some good firework displays to choose from in our wider area at the start of November. And in this issue you will find early info on the Christmas Tree switch-on, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November, 5.30PM. This includes an appearance by a gentleman with a long white beard and red suit. Rumour has it he will personally switch on the lights! Note that Walnut Tree Way will be closed for the short period of this wonderful village celebration. Please check for further details in the November issue of The Meppershall Messenger – including hospitality options at The Sugar Loaf and the village hall.

In this issue we recall the stunning fly-past of Tiger Moth biplanes in the summer. A glimpse of military life almost a century ago, those planes evoke the sacrifices made by those serving our nation in two world wars. Meppershall's Act of Remembrance will as always be solemnly held on Remembrance Sunday (9<sup>th</sup> November). We share the special activities taking place this year on page 15. In this era when some are raising flags on lampposts, this is a time to remember that those wartime sacrifices were made to protect people of every colour and background. They built a peaceful future for the world and for our country, founded on the service of men and women from not only this country but from across the Commonwealth, fighting side by side. For me, the pride I feel in our flag is pride in the diverse nation for which it stands; pride in the diverse community which sacrificed much, under that same flag. Lest we forget.

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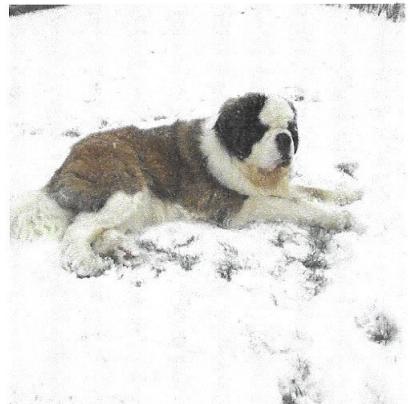


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## Letters

**Dear Editor,**

Yes, it's another appeal but this one won't relieve you of any of your hard earned cash! I am still collecting redundant spectacles. These are then sent to the Lion Club via Hing's opticians in Shefford. They are processed and then sent off to third world countries for reuse. Just imagine a person of any age with poor eyesight suddenly acquiring clear vision to see the world around them, to see their family and have the ability to read.

Please have a look around, it will only take a few minutes of your time. Just leave them on the doorstep or send them to 77 Shefford Road, Meppershall.

To have compassion and to care about others is what makes us human.

Thank you,

**Tony Smith**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Dear Editor**

### **Plum Tree Vandals**

For many years the plum tree at the bottom of Taylors Close, near the school and Rogers Bakery, has provided residents with a bountiful crop of delicious small plums. These hung in profusion from the lower branches, offering delicious treats to passers by and ample supplies for dessert and jam makers. Some bureaucrat has ordered removal of all the lower branches, making it impossible for any plums to be picked. Will the guilty party please own up?

**Patrick O'Connor**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Dear Editor**

### **Shefford Road**

While it is great to have a decent road surface for half of Shefford Road, the only issue now is that many seem to take this as the ability to speed more.

Can all Meppershall residents remember that the limit is 30mph, that many residents live along Shefford Road, and that there are children and elderly people around at all times of the day.

Start out a few minutes early and STICK TO THE SPEED LIMIT, please.

**A Meppershall resident.**



## NEW TEAM MEMBER (COUNCILLOR) REQUIRED

**Meppershall Parish Council needs a new team member; if you think you would like to join the Parish Council team contact the Clerk on 07480 251746 or email [clerk@meppershall-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@meppershall-pc.gov.uk)**

### What is a councillor?

- An individual who is either elected or co-opted to represent Meppershall.
- Election by the public happens 4 years, but there is currently a co-option space vacant.

### What do councillors do?

Councillors have three main components to their work:

1. Decision making - Through meetings with other councillors they decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.
2. Monitoring - Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.
3. Getting involved locally - As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. These responsibilities and duties often depend on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available and may include:
  - Going to meetings of local organisations such as the Beds Police Priority Setting Meetings
  - Reviewing planning applications
  - Planning and participating in 'litter pick days'
  - Taking up issues on behalf of members of the public

### How much time does it take up?

- About an hour a week, in the main - although some spend more time than this - and sometimes less.

### Skills and training

- You will be supported in your role and will be expected to undertake some training.
- You should be comfortable working electronically.
- You should have a positive outlook and a can-do attitude and be willing to work as part of a team.

### Benefits

- An enjoyable way of contributing to village life and helping to make Meppershall a better place to live and work.

**If, after reading this notice, you are interested in applying please contact the Clerk to the Council on 07480 251746 or email [clerk@meppershall-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@meppershall-pc.gov.uk)**

**GO ON, GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY!**

## Meppershall Social Club

Well winter is on its way so it time for our winter opening hours

Monday – Thursday	6pm till 11pm
Friday	5pm till 11:30pm
Saturday	2pm till 11:30pm
Sunday	1pm till 10pm



This month entertainment

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> from 8pm Live music with Julie Simpson

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Our monthly Quiz from 7:30pm

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Kids Halloween Activity Afternoon 1pm -5pm

£3 per child

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> Our door will be open from 4pm for trick or treaters

And finally notice of our A.G.M. will be held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7pm all welcome but only members will be able to vote.

\*\*\*\*\*

## PRINTING SERVICES FROM THE MESSENGER

***Did you know that as well as printing 1100 Messengers each month, the Messenger team can also help with commercial printing services? Didn't think so!***

Using our high-quality printer, we can provide a wide variety of print services for local businesses and organisations. We're certainly local, we're always helpful, and we try to be competitive too.

Prices start at just 3p per A4 page (single-sided, B&W), and 14p single-sided A4 in colour.

Other printing services available include 2-sided printing, and leaflet or booklet printing.

We can handle small jobs, and large print runs too. Proof reading is a speciality!

For further information enquire at [meppershallmessenger@meppershall.org](mailto:meppershallmessenger@meppershall.org)



## Meppershall Golf Society

A warm welcome from the Meppershall Golf Society.

Our first event was held at Mount Pleasant on the 9<sup>th</sup> August. It was a great day, the course played well and the sun shone on us. 19 players turned out and prizes were awarded for nearest the pin (front 9, back 9) and longest drive.

We also had a team competition (pink ball) and a cash prize for birdies. We all had a wonderful time, making some new friends.

Golf prowess had to take second place 😊.



### Dates for the Diary:

6 <sup>th</sup> September: Stevenage Golf Complex	1 <sup>st</sup> November: Panshanger
4 <sup>th</sup> October: Mowsbury Golf Club	6 <sup>th</sup> December: Chestfield Downs

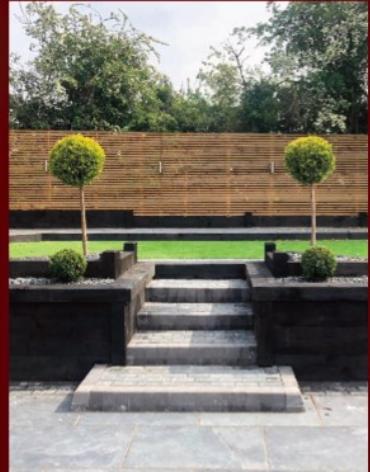
Following the winter break we aim to restart back in March-April 2026 with monthly events (1<sup>st</sup> or 2nd week / weekend of the month). We currently have 42 members. There is limited space if you would like to get involved.

Membership fees £10 PA – Additional to green fees, all players will pay additional £5 to help build up funds for deposits.

Email: [gordon.cordes67@gmail.com](mailto:gordon.cordes67@gmail.com) Tel: 0780 767 4609

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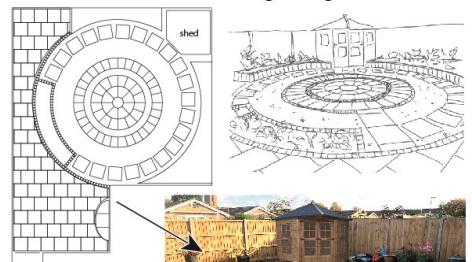
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## Meppershall Village Hall



Many thanks to everyone who attended the Annual General Meeting in July.

Committee members until the next AGM in 2026 have been confirmed:

Kevin Larsen	Elected member (Trustee) (Chair)
Andy Cannon	Elected committee member (Trustee)
Gordon Cordes	Elected member (Trustee)
Mandie Edwards	Co-opted member (Vice Chair)
Barry Gatenby	Representative member – Meppershall McMillan
Kevin Hankin	Co-opted member (Communications lead)
Roger Osborne	Representative member Social Club
Jayne Walbridge	Representative member - St Mary's Parish Church representative (Committee Secretary)
Ray Wood	Representative member (HATS)

We will endeavour to put the interests of the village first and have a number of exciting plans for the coming year.

Please look out for news on the Meppershall Village Hall Facebook page and Parish Council notice boards.

We need someone local to help with maintenance / caretaking duties a few hours each month, if you are interested – please email:

[trustees@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:trustees@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk)

## Polehanger Photography Competition

Take part in our **AUTUMN PHOTOGRAPHY** competition at Polehanger Farm.  
*Prizes to be won!*

The competition is open to anyone enjoying a walk on our footpaths or in the **Polehanger River Woodland**, attending an event at The Gardens at Polehanger, staying at the **The Farmhouse at Polehanger, The Meadows at Polehanger** or just spending time outdoors at Polehanger Farm during September, October or November 2025.

Simply snap your best autumn landscape or wildlife photo and submit your favourite for a chance to win!

There are three categories: Adults, Children 0-9 and Children 10-16.

### Prizes:

**Adults: a one-night stay at The Meadows at Polehanger**

**Children 0-9: a £15 Smyths voucher**

**Children 10-16: a £15 John Lewis voucher.**

Email your snaps to: [themeadows@polehanger.co.uk](mailto:themeadows@polehanger.co.uk) by 30 November 2025 to be in for a chance of winning. Please state your name and age category you are entering.

For more information, please look here:

<https://themeadows.polehanger.co.uk/autumn-photography-competition/>

Also tag us on social media with **#polehangerphotos**

### PLEASE NOTE:

To be entered for the competition, you must email us at the address above.

We will acknowledge receipt of your photo.

Competition ends on 30 November. Winners to be announced on 8 December and notified by email.

Hope to see lots of wonderful photos!





## Biggleswade & District Camera Club



We meet on Thursday evenings, 7:30 for 8:00pm, in "The Sullivan Room", Weatherley Centre, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade SG18 8JH. The 2025/2026 Season opens on 25<sup>th</sup> September with a Welcome evening.

Here is a list of the upcoming lectures:

2<sup>nd</sup> October : A presentation by David Steel entitled "My Type of Photography"

30<sup>th</sup> October : A presentation by Kevin Pigney entitled "Passion for Scapes"

Visitors are welcome. There is a small charge of £3.00 payable on the door.

Throughout the season we run competitions, with external judges. These are for both PDIs (projected digital images) and prints. There are a few specialist subject rounds, but most are open for members to choose their own images. We also have speakers and presentations. Speakers have included Kevin Pigney, Roy Essery, Andy Sands, Mark Gilligan and Chris Palmer. The David Tyler Memorial Wildlife Lecture is given by a specialist wildlife speaker. Running into Christmas, we have a humorous competition in honour of one of our late members, John Clark.

The emphasis has always been on retaining the friendly and encouraging character of the club and prospective members; visitors and even photographic judges are warmly welcomed.

There is an annual Photo Walkabout at a local venue where members are challenged to obtain an image for each of six revealed topics.

The club enters interclub competitions, including the Cambridge Digital Competition and the Central Club Challenge. We have three-way battles with Ampthill/Bedford/Biggleswade and Kempston/Stevenage/Biggleswade.

For further information about the club please contact me:

[royhiggins1946@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:royhiggins1946@yahoo.co.uk) or see the website [www.biggleswadecameraclub.co.uk](http://www.biggleswadecameraclub.co.uk)

**Roy Higgins**

**Publicity Officer, Biggleswade & DCC 07768688667**

\*\*\*\*\*

### A Message From Meppershall Munchkins by Rachel Rowe

This year is going so fast, the summer holidays have finished and we have had so much fun at Munchkins, including Pottery fun with Katie from The Roaming Kiln and dancing fun with Flic from Tappy Toes Bedford.

Looking forward to the rest of the year, we have a number of exciting dates for your diaries including Friday 31st October - a spooky Halloween party.

Emily Daniel Photography will be returning with her camera for some more mini-shoots on Tuesday 18th and Friday 21st November. This is a great opportunity to

capture some photos for Christmas presents. A booking link and more details will be posted to our Facebook page nearer the time.

We are still needing more volunteers to help set up and tidy up and support this wonderful group. Please come and say hello if you can help at any session, it's the only way to keep this amazing group running.

### **Meppershall Munchkins Baby and Toddler Group**

***A fun and friendly stay-and-play at Meppershall Village Hall***

- 9:30-11:30am Tuesday and Friday mornings
- £3.50 for first child. £1 additional children
- Snack and squash for children included
- Walk-ins are welcome
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Please check Meppershall Munchkins Facebook page for updates including emergency closures.

\*\*\*\*\*

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Saturday 4 October

9.00am to 12pm



## Meppershall Village Hall

If you can bake and would like to donate a cake, please bring your cakes to the Village Hall on Friday 3 October between 5pm and 6pm

Please do not put your cakes in any containers that you would like returned as we cannot guarantee you will get them back.

Please put a note with your cake if you have used nuts.

Any questions email - [events@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:events@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk)

This is a Community event & proceeds will go to running similar community events at Meppershall Village Hall.

Also, Saturday 8 November, 13 December & 10 January

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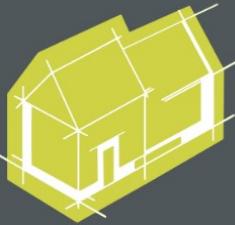
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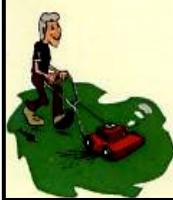
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**Rector: The Reverend Veronica Goodman**

01462 339962 – [ronigoodman@gmail.com](mailto:ronigoodman@gmail.com) – usual day off Monday

**Churchwardens:**

Chris Valentine 01462 815971 John Archer

**PCC Secretary:**

Anne Parsons 01462 813333 Email: [annie10639@gmail.com](mailto:annie10639@gmail.com)

### A Message From St Mary's...

October comes at a time of Thanksgiving - Thanksgiving for the Harvest (although in fact our fields locally seem to be harvested earlier and earlier each year!) and for the abundance of food that we enjoy. It is a time when many of us are so grateful for what we have that we think about those who 'have not'. This year we will again be collecting for the Need Project - gifts for those who are in need locally - particularly at our service on the 28th September. But it is not too late to give gifts now - in church - or at other collection points locally!

How much need is there? You might like to know that the Need Project reported that in August 2025 they delivered 504 food parcels and 457 top up bags to individuals and families in need, and including "best before" events, that means that they helped 754 adults, 34 pensioners and 613 children.

And we will also be looking further afield and supporting the Bishop of St Alban's Harvest Appeal for 2025. This year's appeal is called "Rewrite Their Future", and the Diocese are once again partnering with Mission Direct. Their work in Uganda and Zambia is focused on building schools and improving access to education in some of the world's most under-resourced communities. After one year, these schools supported by Mission Direct will serve over 2,945 children, of which 1,170 will be benefiting from new classrooms —and over the next 20 years, 23,400 children will gain access to education that would otherwise be out of reach.

What has that to do with feeding the hungry? Well, remember the well-known adage, "give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime". Our gifts of money will help bring lasting hope to these communities and grow their independence as more children go to school, unlock their potential and thrive, freeing themselves from poverty through education. If you would like to support this initiative you can make a bank to bank transfer to their account with Barclays Bank. Please use the reference "Bishops Harvest Appeal".

Sort code: 20-53-33. Account No: 30618527. Account Name: Mission Direct Ltd.

Once again, as we remember St Francis, we will have a Village Pet Blessing Service on 5th October. Bring your pet to church! If you feel your pet would not be happy in the

service, or if you want to remember a pet from the past – just bring a photo... Hope to see you there!

We are also celebrating with thanksgiving, the completion of the works to the Tower of our Church. There are so many to thank who contributed their time, their talents, their skills and generous funding to this project. And with our thanks again also, to those who were so patient and supportive during that time. On Saturday 11th October 2.00 - 4.30pm the Church will be open - with afternoon tea and music, an opportunity to try bell ringing, and fun for all ages. On Sunday 12th October there will be a celebration service at 11.00am with Bishop Richard. The service will be followed by finger food and fizz. Everyone is welcome. Please do come!

Wishing you a happy and thankful October! **Rector Roni.**

## Church Events In October

### Usual Pattern of Services

Sundays	11.00am	Morning Worship every Sunday Holy Communion: 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays
Every Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion in the Rectory
Church open to visit	10.00-4.00	Private prayer, quiet time – the church is open.
Online services:	9.00am	Morning Prayer using 24-7's Lectio 365 App 7-days-a-week
	9.00pm	Night Prayer/Compline from the C. of E. Daily Prayer App, 7-days-a-week

Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmeppershall/>

Find us on our website: <https://www.stmarysmeppershall.org.uk/>

Find us on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRjDLGAY8GI6afkO8iALYOA>

**Please note '9and9' continues daily on our Facebook page.**

### Forthcoming Services and Events

Sunday 5th October	11.00am. Morning Worship - Village Pet Blessing Service
Saturday 11th October	2.00-4.30pm. Open Church - with afternoon tea and music, an opportunity to try bell ringing, and fun for all ages.
Sunday 12th October	11.00am. Holy Communion with Bishop Richard - giving thanks for the repairs to the Tower
Sunday 19th October	11.00am. Morning Worship
Sunday 26th October	11.00am. Holy Communion - Bible Sunday

### St Mary's Church, Meppershall - Junior Church

The JC special nature hunt event on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September was a fun event where we welcomed children who had attended JC in previous years and some who had not. Thank you to everyone who was able to come and all who made it happen.

Junior church is on every 2nd and 4th Sunday during part of the church service when the children learn about God through stories and activities. Please come along!

*The Junior Church Team*

## News From The Bell Tower by Gill Marshall-Davies, Tower Captain

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October St Mary's is celebrating the work that has been completed on the Church building. The Church looks forward to welcoming you!

Want to try some bellringing?! This is an ideal chance to come and HAVE A GO! Experienced ringers will be there to help, please don't be shy! Have you been a bellringer in the past? Thinking of getting back into it? This is a great opportunity!

Can't make it to the event but would like to find out more about learning to ring? Feel free to join us on a Thursday evenings, 7.30pm to 9pm, when you can see bellringing first hand. Contact me, Gillian, on 07778 449051 or email: [meppershall@bacbr.org.uk](mailto:meppershall@bacbr.org.uk).

## Meppershall Remembers: Lest We Forget

This year, Remembrance Sunday falls on 9<sup>th</sup> November. As always the church will host the Act of Remembrance at the war memorial in the churchyard, followed by the Service of Remembrance. Each year people gather from 10.45AM in that place, to remember. But there is something very special about this year's remembrance.



Earlier this year, Helen Valentine made an appeal for people to knit poppies to be used at church for Remembrance Sunday – a special reminder of sacrifices that we solemnly commemorate. “I have been overwhelmed by the response from people from the church and the wider village,” says Helen. Helen is now hard at work, sewing the knitted poppies onto netting, to be draped at Meppershall War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. There will also be an additional display inside the church. Alex Sinfield has also been bringing her creative talents to remembrance this year. She has created a range of custom-made, embroidered fabric poppies that can be obtained in the church, with all proceeds going to The Royal British Legion Poppy

Appeal and the Parish Church of St Mary's, Meppershall.

The requested donation for each one in a range of crocheted poppies is £3. Larger, higher-detail beaded felt poppies are also available at £5. Card donations are preferred and these can be made on the contactless device at the back of the church, using ‘poppy’ as the payment reference for church accounting purposes. That’s where you’ll find the wonderful ‘poppy tree’ display, from which you can choose your poppy.

There is of course a limited stock of these hand-crafted tributes – feel free to visit the church whenever it is open, or perhaps on a Sunday morning for the service, to pick yours up.





# St Mary's Meppershall

Invites you to celebrate the completion of  
the works to the tower

**Saturday 11 October 2-4.30pm**

Open Church with afternoon tea,  
music, try the bells, fun for all ages

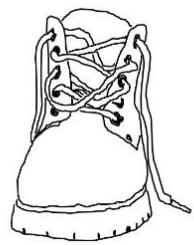
**Sunday 12 October 11am**

Celebration service with Bishop Richard  
Followed by finger food and fizz

Everyone is welcome on both days

## Meppershall Second Sunday Strollers

It's the rainy season, and we already felt it in September with our loop of Campton and Shefford and back through Polehanger Farm. Still, we are hoping for some crisp weather for our October hike!



**Sunday 12<sup>h</sup> October 2025:** meeting at the church gate in Meppershall at 2.00PM, we'll walk a loop from Meppershall around Lower Stondon and Chibley Farm. Taking the road to Lower Stondon, we head from there towards Holwell on Fakeswell Lane, before looping around Mayfield Farm, walking briefly on Shillington Road (between Stondon and Shillington) and heading back up to Meppershall via Chibley Farm. Some of the paths we'll use are new territory for Meppershall SSS! It is 5 miles in total – we aim to be back soon after 4.15PM.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Tiger Moths Attack Meppershall by Patrick O'Connor

On Thursday 30th July, between 6.30 and 7.00 PM, a squadron of sixteen Tiger Moth aircraft made a number of low-level formation flights directly over Meppershall.

The reason for this is that the Shuttleworth Collection at Old Warden airfield was hosting a gathering of Tiger Moths, to celebrate the 100th. anniversary of the first

flight of this classic aircraft.

By the following day, nearly 100 Tiger Moths, from all over the UK and some from the Continent, had landed at Old Warden. Despite the less-than-perfect weather that day, many of them were flown, in formation and in aerobatic displays. The climax was a flyover of a formation in the shape of the number 100.

First appearing in 1931, squadrons of Tiger Moths were based at RAF Henlow from the late 1930s for many years, where their role included basic flight training.





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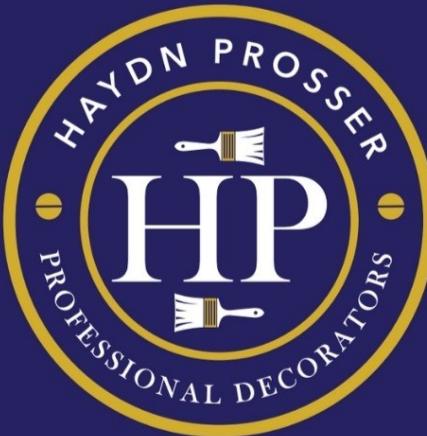
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Let's kick off the season together—  
don't forget to bring your cameras!

# Meppershall's Christmas Tree and Lights Switch on

Our village organisations are working together to bring  
you another evening of village celebrations with a  
special visit from Santa!

## Save the Date

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 5pm  
Entrance to Walnut Tree Way  
More details to follow

Want to sponsor our tree?  
Or volunteer to be a marshall?  
Please contact  
[lovemeppershall@meppershall.org](mailto:lovemeppershall@meppershall.org)

## Meppershall Parish Council

### Key points and summary of recent meetings

Meetings of Meppershall Parish Council (MPC) took place on 21<sup>st</sup> July and 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

### Chairmans Announcements

- Thanks to Mrs Thorne for her great service to the village and council over these many years. He noted that her work in and for the village is, and has been, much appreciated and valued, even if sometimes unsung. The Council is very sorry to see that she is leaving.
- Sad to hear of Derek Litchfield's resignation from Council. He will be missed.
- Great to receive a commendation from CPRE for our environmental efforts in the village.

### Consultations and Legal

#### St Marys Church

- Councillors to attend celebrations of the tower restoration and major works.

#### Village Hall

- Working group met with MVH trustees on 14<sup>th</sup> July. MVH would like to investigate the possibility of transferring the car park and most green spaces around the village hall to MPC It was agreed that the working group would need to present a proposal with cost, risk and responsibility implications to council.

#### Stocken House

- Clerk has received emails from Davidsons regarding the standpipe at The Glebe. Concerns raised about the connection that Davidsons want to provide (no standpipe – just a stop valve in a lockable chamber). Pending update.
- Clerk has attended online meeting with CBC and Davidsons play supplier regarding the non-compliant play equipment. The proposed solution needs to be agreed by Davidsons.

### IT & Communications

- Creation of the Meppershall.org website and amendments to the MPC gov.uk website is in progress with Iris Web Media.
- Request received and accepted to provide email addresses to members of the Meppershall Golf Society. It was also requested that we provide email addresses for Wanderbus.

### Finance

#### Purchase orders approved for

- Salt bin for MVH / MPC carpark, Parking post for Centenary Field, Replacement fence section for Centenary Field pitch, Variety of tools and equipment required for environmental village maintenance, NP Green Infrastructure Plan refresh costs, Grounds maintenance contractor to assist with clearance of overgrown allotment plots, Approve addition to grounds maintenance contractor contract to include cutting of Community Orchard and allotments, Repair to Festival of Britain Sign, Base covers for outdoor gym, Pitch line marking machine , Wreath for Remembrance Day, Bulbs and wildflower seeds.

#### Grant applications approved

- Grant to Wanderbus for £1000.

- Grant to Meppershall FC for £500.
- Grant to Meppershall Munchkins for £500.

### **Document approval**

- Open Public Sector Deposit Fund with CCLA.
- Approval of bank statements and reconciliation as presented.

### **Orders for the payment of money**

- Schedules of payments as presented to Council were approved and authorised for payment

### **Planning applications**

- CB/25/01849/VOC - Sandy View, SG17 5LL - Variation of condition number 13 of planning permission CB/25/01134/VOC - Amendment sought to relocate dwelling 1m closer to eastern boundary and alterations to the design and siting of the garage). Variation sought to approved drawings for minor design changes. *No comment submitted*.
- CB/25/01102/FULL - 5 Church Road, SG17 5NA - Part two storey part single storey rear extension, internal alterations, fenestration changes and creation of Juliet balcony to front elevation. *No comment submitted*.
- CB/25/02062/FULL - 38 Fildyke Road, SG17 5LT - Single storey rear/side extension. *No objection*.
- CB/25/02412/SECM - Land at Banland Nurseries - Modification of Section 106 Agreement attached to planning permission CB/21/02471/FULL. *No comment*.

### **Request for extension / addition to conservation area.**

- Request received from residents to extend / add to the Meppershall conservation area. The area would include current hayfields adjacent to Station Road and behind the old rectory at Monks Pool. Councillors agreed that this proposed extension / addition to the conservation area has merit and should be progressed.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

- Village Questionnaire data has been input into our website; data extracted and put into graphs etc..
- Template design guides have been provided to the group, and a decision has been made to create the design guide for Meppershall by the group which they have started to progress.
- Housing needs survey is not required as we are not looking to designate site allocations.
- Council have already agreed to progress a review of the Green Infrastructure Plan.

### **Highways and Transport**

- **Update on Shefford Road repairs / re-surfacing** - Shefford Road has been re-surfaced from the village boundary at the pedestrian crossing to the Woodlands Rest entrance.
- **Footpath on Shefford Road / High Street (from Poppy Gardens to Crackle Hill Road)** – CBC to provide update.
- **Footpath on Fildyke Road** - CBC to provide update.

- The Clerk has requested new **CBC Road Safety Policy** that allows parish councils to contribute to the purchase and installation of vehicle activated signs in their villages.
- The Clerk has requested input into Ward Councillor discussions with Highways officers regarding highway improvements for 2026-2027.

## Environment and Leisure

### Update on allotments

- Concerns raised by residents and plot holders about drone activity coming from and over the allotment site. Council confirmed that this was not permitted. *The Clerk was asked to amend the allotment rules and regulations concerning this.*
- New security fencing to be installed with Armco to protect fencing opposite vehicle parking.
- Clerk to write to High Street residents to remind them that they must not obstruct the allotment track with vehicles at any time.

### Storage container painting

- List of materials and steps required to paint the PC storage container pending.

### Update on Old Road Meadow

- Mrs Thorne advised that the community orchard paths in ORM have been reinstated.
- Improvement works to start in the Autumn.

### Update on all other environment and leisure issues

- Litter pick to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

### Christmas Tree Switch On Event

- Event will be on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November and will involve the Social Club, Village Hall and other village organisations. Plans are underway.

### Staff Matters

#### Appointment of Allotment Co-ordinator

- Mr Hirst to cover the role until a replacement is found.

#### Request from Stondon Parish Council for assistance with play area inspections.

- SPC has requested assistance with play area inspections as they have no-one trained. Mr Hirst has agreed to do the inspections but will do so as an MPC employee.

### Training.

- Clerk to organise sexual harassment and play inspection training.
- Clerk has attended GDPR training with more sessions booked.

Full meeting minutes can be found here: <https://meppershall-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/meetings/>

**John Parsons – Chairman, Meppershall Parish Council**

### Forthcoming events to note

**Works to Old Road Meadow:** It has now been 25 years since trees were planted at Old Road Meadow to create a nature reserve. The planting and trees have matured and works are planned in the autumn to allow the area to flourish.

**Village Litter Pick:** Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November, 10.00-12.00, meet at 10.00 at the Village Hall (near the large storage container). Free tea and coffee provided.

Volunteer for either event by emailing Alex - [lovemeppershall@meppershall.org](mailto:lovemeppershall@meppershall.org)



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## Thinking Ahead by Donna Cameron

Donna's Garden Designs | 07833670934

After such a glorious summer we now head into Autumn with its array of vibrant colours of turning leaves and berries.

With the evenings drawing in and getting chillier, as a gardener you always have to be one step ahead. One nice job to be doing at this time of year is planning and planting your spring bulbs.

These unassuming bulbs hold such magic within their cases, as - come early next year - they burst into life unveiling such a variety of shapes, colours and form to suit every type of garden, be it shady, south-facing, contemporary or cottage. There is something for everyone.



When its cold outside, don't be put off by going in the garden and planting some bulbs, as spring 2026 will surely be a colourful one if you do so. Also many bulbs, once planted, will flower for many years to come - so it is an investment that will pay you back over and over again. Alliums can flower for 40 years

and many bulbs multiply so you can divide them around different areas.

With planning, you can have colour in your garden from Jan to June:

- Jan/ Feb      Snowdrops, Scilla, Anenomes and Crocus
- March        Daffodils
- April         Tulips, Camassia, Hyacinths and Bluebells
- May/ June    Alliums

They are simple to plant. The general rule being to plant 3-times the depth of the bulb with the pointed end up. Plant bulbs in groups to make more of an impact and if want a more natural look, casually throw them - and dig them in wherever they land.

This works well in wildflower meadows or lawns to add an extra dimension to the garden.

For extra protection you can mulch on top.

Whatever you choose, they will be a joy when they pop up and bring colour and scent.

**Donna x**

## Jobs In the Garden For October

Plant Spring bulbs	Collect seed from the garden
Tidy up garden	Cut back Perennials and divide
Harvest Pumpkins for Halloween	Move tender plants somewhere safe
Mow lawn for the last time and lay any turf	Harvest apples, pears and grapes
Trim hedges	Prune climbing Roses
	Plant out spring cabbages
	Enjoy the Autumn colours

\*\*\*\*\*

## Trugs And Trowels (Campton Gardening Club) – October

Hi everyone, here's hoping you all have enjoyed this wonderful summer and like me welcome a little rainfall and a little less watering.

On October 6th we welcome Hitchin Triangle garden.

On November 3rd Helen returns with wonkey basket willow wreath-making. Numbers are limited, secateurs are needed.

December 1st will be our Christmas social.

To make sure Hyacinths are in flower at Christmas, you need to plant them now – this goes for your daffodils and snowdrops for early spring flowers, too. Autumn's warm soil provides ideal planting conditions. Also, it is a good time to plant container-grown shrubs, trees and fruit bushes. Make sure to keep root balls adequately moist, because even when the weather is damp, rainfall will not penetrate a dried-out rootball. Soak well before planting.

Fallen leaves can be left or collected for leaf mould; however, clear and burn diseased material. Leaves can be placed in black perforated bin bags with air holes and when drying out remember to dampen them to help them break down. This process takes about a year to mature and makes a great top-dressing for woodland plants such as Rhododendrons. Also, it makes a great homegrown substitute for peat. Your soil is your most precious commodity. It is time to start digging in compost, manure and as much organic matter as you can - replacing the good in it. The earlier you start the better, especially for heavy soils. Top off with a layer of mulch to replenish the goodness after the growing season. The Autumn borders produce masses of garden waste and this will put organic richness back into the ground for next spring. Use a variety of materials, including spent veg and bedding plants, herbaceous left overs, thatch moss, cuttings from the lawn, weeds (including shredded weeds through the lawnmower), hedge clippings, veg peeling and teabags. These are all ideal but avoid diseased or pest-ridden material. Once soil is dressed with a rich feed, you will reap the benefits.

When clearing borders, try and leave some winter shelter and seed heads for wildlife.

Even in autumn, pots will still require a watering during dry spells.

Lift and store tender plants – put them in moist soil trays somewhere light, labelling them and drying them out by gradually withdrawing water and covering with a shallow layer of peat. Store them somewhere frost-free. They can have a little water over winter to prevent shrivelling.

After frost blackens Dahlias, cut stems down to 10cm, label and lift – taking care not to damage the tubers, removing all soil, placing upside down to drain for a couple of weeks, covering in a tray of peat and keeping frost free. Tidy up Oleander and the like and move them into a greenhouse or conservatory, with minimum watering, dry side ready for repotting next spring. Protect alpines from excessive wetness, place them in open ended cloches. Support your tall flowers. Lift and bring tender perennials indoors. If dividing any perennials, consider our free-and-swap table where everyone can share new plants. Cut to the base, leaving any new growth. It is a good time to plant new perennials in the spaces you have created. Plant up winter pots even if they still look good – this gives them growing time.

Lots to be getting on with... planting , dividing and sharing!

We are looking forward to your club visits - every one is welcome on the first Monday of the month 7.30PM in Campton Village Hall.

**Maryika Wilding 01462 851729**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Personal Finance: Pensions And Inheritance by Paul Savuto**

### **How pension and Inheritance Tax policy changes could affect your legacy**

From April 2027, pensions are expected to fall within your estate and could be liable for Inheritance Tax (IHT). That date might seem far away, but the policy change has the potential to significantly affect your estate plan, so thinking about it now could be useful.

While the policy change is still in the initial stage, the government has signalled that it intends to move forward with the plans. Under current rules, your pension usually falls outside of your estate when calculating a potential IHT bill. As a result, pensions are often used in tax-efficient strategies to pass on wealth to loved ones. The inclusion of pensions may mean some estates might need to consider IHT for the first time, or that estate plans need to be updated.

In 2025/26, the nil-rate band is £325,000. If the total value of all your assets, including your pension from April 2027, exceeds this threshold, your estate may be liable for IHT. The good news is that there are often steps you can take to reduce an IHT bill, which an estate plan could help you identify.

## **Most pensions are set to be liable for Inheritance Tax, but there are some exceptions**

The current proposals suggest most pensions are set to fall within the IHT net from April 2027, including defined contribution pensions, defined benefit pots, workplace pensions, personal pensions, and self-invested personal pensions.

However, there are some exceptions, including pensions that provide an income during your retirement years and certain types of annuities.

In addition, if your pension has a death in service benefit, which may provide your spouse, civil partner, or dependent children with a lump sum or regular income if you pass away, this is expected to be outside of your estate for IHT purposes.

Under current rules, beneficiaries don't usually pay IHT on inherited pensions, but they may pay Income Tax in some circumstances. Assuming this doesn't change, it could mean inherited pensions are subject to double taxation as they'll be liable for both IHT and Income Tax.

The changes could significantly reduce how much you leave behind for loved ones, and could mean that passing on wealth through a pension no longer makes sense from a tax perspective.

## **3 ways you could pass on wealth and reduce Inheritance Tax**

If you'd previously planned to use other assets to fund your retirement so you could pass on your pension tax-efficiently, your wider financial plan may need to change as a result of the incoming policy.

For example, you might choose to deplete your pension during your lifetime and pass on different assets to loved ones now or in the future. Here are three alternative options you might want to consider.

### **1. Gift assets to loved ones during your lifetime**

One option is to pass on assets now. This could provide support for your loved ones when they need it most, such as when they're buying their first home or are paying a child's school fees. However, there are two key things to be aware of before you start gifting assets.

First, review your financial plan to ensure you'll still be financially secure in the long term after gifting assets.

Second, not all gifts are immediately outside of your estate for IHT purposes. Some may be considered part of your estate for up to seven years after they were gifted; these are known as "potentially exempt transfers".

Gifts that are immediately considered outside of your estate include:

- Up to £3,000 each tax year
- Small gifts of up to £250 per person each tax year, so long as you have not used another allowance on the same person
- A wedding gift of up to £1,000, rising to £2,500 for grandchildren or great-grandchildren and £5,000 for children

- Regular payments to another person that are from your regular monthly income. For example, you may pay into a savings account for a child or cover the rent of an elderly relative.

So, you might want to make gifting part of your financial plan to make the most of gifts that are immediately exempt from IHT.

## **2. Place assets in a trust**

A trust is a legal arrangement where assets are held on behalf of beneficiaries. For IHT purposes, you may use a trust to remove some assets from your estate. In some cases, you might still retain control or benefit from the assets.

There are several different types of trust, and it's important to ensure yours is set up correctly, as it may not be possible to retrieve assets once they have been placed in a trust. Seeking professional legal and financial advice could help you assess if a trust is the right option for you before you proceed.

## **3. Take out life insurance to cover an Inheritance Tax bill**

A life insurance policy won't reduce the amount of IHT your estate is liable for, but it can provide your loved ones with a way to pay the bill.

You'll need to pay regular premiums to maintain the cover. When you pass away, your nominated beneficiary will receive a lump sum, which they can then use to pay the IHT due. It could reduce stress for your loved one at a difficult time and help ensure your estate is passed on intact.

It's important that the life insurance is written in trust. Otherwise, the payout could be considered part of your estate and lead to a larger IHT bill.

## **Get in touch to talk about your estate plan**

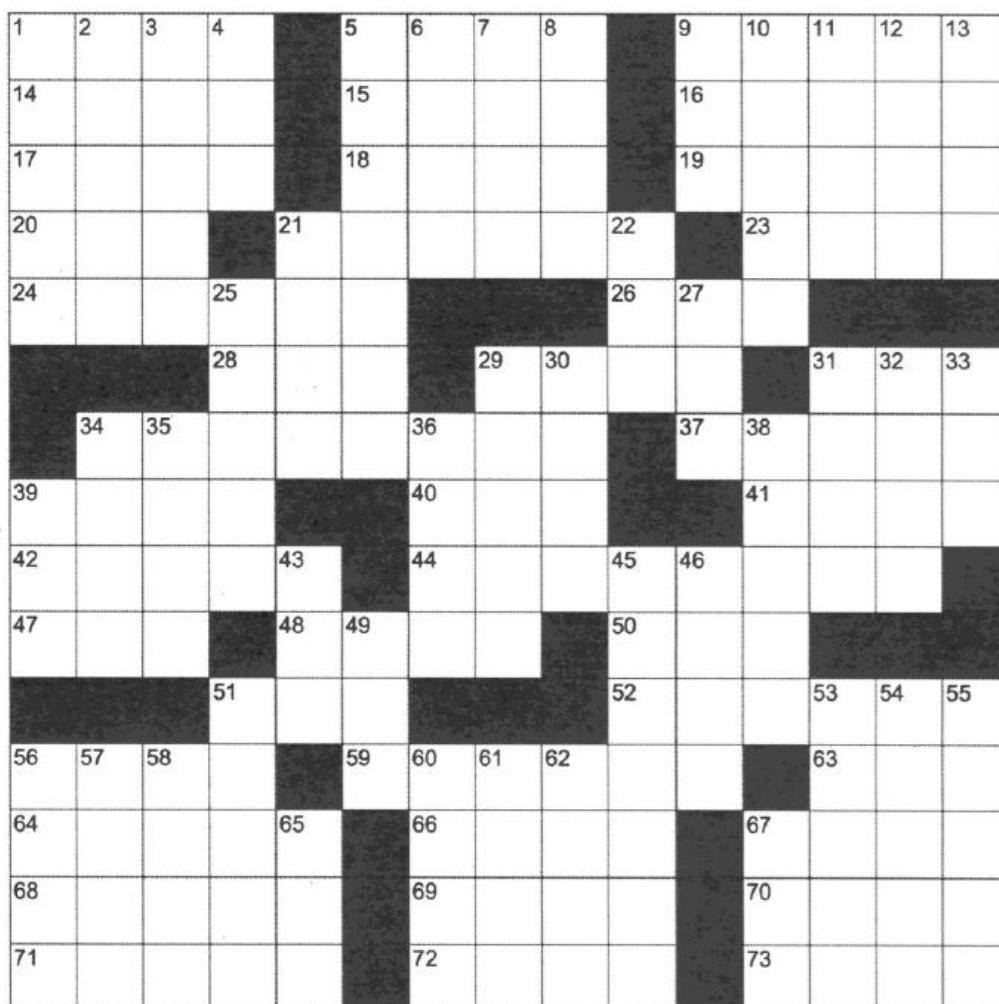
Whether you're starting from scratch or have an existing estate plan that you'd like to review, we can help you assess what the upcoming changes mean for you and the legacy you want to leave behind. We can work with you on an ongoing basis to ensure your estate and wider financial plan continues to reflect current policy and your needs. Please get in touch to talk to us.

## **Get in touch**

DGS IFA Ltd are Independent and Chartered Financial Advisers. I am a Chartered Financial Planner with over 30 years financial services experience, so you are in safe hands. To discuss your financial situation and to discuss your plans and goals, please contact me, Paul Savuto, AFPS, Chartered Financial Planner. DGS Independent Financial Advisers Ltd. 07834 499 595 or email [ps@dgsifa.com](mailto:ps@dgsifa.com), I'll be happy to talk to you and answer any questions you have. FCA 225814. Please note: This blog is for general information only and does not constitute advice. The information is aimed at retail clients only.

**ACROSS**

1 Cat cries  
 5 Vassal  
 9 Not before  
 14 Car rental agency  
 15 Opaque gem  
 16 Horde  
 17 Lavish party  
 18 Child's transportation  
 19 Specific areas  
 20 Business abbr.  
 21 Withdraw from a body  
 23 Mailed  
 24 Precision cut stone  
 26 Furrow  
 28 Snacked  
 29 Floating ice  
 31 Electric spark  
 34 Large terrier  
 37 Award  
 39 Summon  
 40 Girl  
 41 Attorney (abbr.)  
 42 Writing style  
 44 Joyful  
 47 Day of wk.  
 48 Face covering  
 50 Tree  
 51 Give a nickname to  
 52 Cut in half  
 56 Ballet skirt  
 59 Strange and secret  
 doctrines  
 63 Body part  
 64 Fire residue  
 66 Madam  
 67 Extinct bird  
 68 Brings in a fish  
 69 At sea  
 70 A fox's hole (2 wds.)  
 71 Lover's meeting  
 72 List of meals  
 73 Not there

**DOWN**

1 Organized crime  
 2 Levels  
 3 Halloween broom rider  
 4 Compass point  
 5 Reversed intoxication  
 6 Heroic  
 7 Garden tool with teeth  
 8 Ran away  
 9 Wood tool  
 10 First sign of fall  
 11 Firm up muscles  
 12 Poetic "evening"  
 13 Repose  
 21 Fill  
 22 Make a mistake  
 25 Small birds  
 27 Good grief!  
 29 Halloween cat  
 30 Snaky fish  
 31 Negative (prefix)  
 32 Reserve Officers Training  
 Corps.  
 33 Whoop  
 34 Air (prefix)  
 35 Computer picture button  
 36 Gets older  
 38 Formal declarations  
 39 Tempo  
 43 Flightless bird  
 45 Graphic description  
 46 Continent  
 49 Alphabet  
 51 Fights  
 53 Wear away  
 54 Fermented apple juice  
 55 Cut of beef  
 56 Tangy  
 57 Consumer  
 58 Those people  
 60 Eve's husband  
 61 Baseball plate  
 62 Prayer ending  
 65 Concord e.g.  
 67 Morse code dash



## Mid Bedfordshire Cancer Support Group

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### We are meeting Face to Face and Online

Informal cancer group for patients, families, friends, carers who wish to meet others for support, sharing & information. People with valuable experience and from relevant organisations have been of great benefit to us all.

**We meet on the first Saturday of every month -**

Meppershall Village Hall, Walnut Tree Way,  
Meppershall, Shefford, Central Beds, SG17 5AB

**Do join us on  
from 11am-1pm either in person  
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For Zoom log in details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3348518015>

Meeting ID: 334 851 8015

Password: cancertalk

We are always available to speak to individuals anytime.



[midbedscancersupport@survivingcancer.co.uk](mailto:midbedscancersupport@survivingcancer.co.uk)



<https://survivingcancer.co.uk/>



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/694644699447288/>



07961 377526

## Shefford Osteopathic Clinic: A Day In The Life Of Your Local Osteopath

At Shefford Osteopathic Clinic, no two days – or people – are the same! A typical day for our team is unpredictable, interesting and rewarding. Most mornings start with a call from someone who's tweaked their back. Usually, the cause is a mystery to them! They explain: "I just bent down to pick up something and, bang, my back went!" It happens to all sorts of people, often in their 30s to 60s although we treat people of all ages and lifestyles.

Many new faces try other potential solutions first. They've seen their GP, taken painkillers, maybe waited ages for a physio appointment ... finally deciding to visit our team of osteopaths. Sometimes, they're sent our way by a friend or family member. It's lovely to know that people trust us to help their loved ones. We usually go from being someone's last resort to their first call next time.

Each day, we see people from all walks of life. Our online bookings mean we can usually see you within 24 hours.

We love the mix of people we see: newborns, the elderly, athletes, busy professionals, local workers or retirees. Some patients enjoy a good chat; others prefer some quiet time. Everyone has their own story, making our job fascinating. Each day, we help people get back to doing what they love - to being the person they want to be.

How can we help you? Contact us via [SheffordOsteo.com](http://SheffordOsteo.com) or 01462 811006.

\*\*\*\*\*



## Ivel Valley South Primary Care Network - Care Coordinators

Ivel Valley South  
Primary Care Network



If you are registered at Shefford Health Centre, Lower Stondon or Larksfield Surgeries and feel that you may benefit from having support with one or more of the following concerns, please contact your NHS Practice Care Coordinator to book a telephone appointment.

Are you over 18 years of age and:

- need a listening ear, with time to explain your health & wellbeing concerns alongside or without the need of a clinician
- need help to navigate NHS, Social Care &/or community services
- are struggling and need support
- feeling overwhelmed, isolated or lonely
- want to be more active in supporting your own care

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- require hospital transport to access appointments
- need help with understanding health literacy

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\*\*\*\*\*

### Crossword Solution For August/September



# MEPPERSHALL - WANDERBUS

Bookings & Info : Tel :0300-123-3023 [www.wanderbus.org.uk](http://www.wanderbus.org.uk)



RR = Return  
on request

## TIMETABLE - VALID FROM 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024

Time/Days have changed – please check & new W16 Stevenage

As from 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2024		"Stops at all Bus Stops on Request"	
<b>W2 BEDFORD</b>	- 2nd Wednesday of Month	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Shefford Rd, / High St., / Rectory Rd. - all stops		09.00 / 09.02	RR
<b>Interchange Retail Park</b>		<b>09.40</b>	<b>12.15</b>
<b>St Pauls Square / Corn Exchange</b>		<b>09.55</b>	<b>12.00</b>
<b>W3 BIGGLESWADE</b>	- Every Monday	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Rectory Rd / High Street, / Shefford Rd., - all Stops		09.36 / 09.40	RR
<b>Biggleswade – A1 Retail Park</b>		<b>10.10</b>	<b>12.15</b>
<b>Station / Town Centre - pick up Church St. Bus Stop o/s Asda</b>		<b>10.15</b>	<b>12.10</b>
<b>W5 BIGGLESWADE - A1 Retail Park/Town Centre - Every Friday</b>		<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Rectory Rd / High St. / Shefford Rd – all stops		10.00 / 10.03	RR
<b>Biggleswade A1 Retail Park / Station &amp; Town Centre</b>		<b>10.25 / 10.30</b>	
<b>Church St bus stop o/s Asda / A1 Retail Park</b>			<b>12.10 / 12.15</b>
<b>W6A CAMBRIDGE</b>	- 4 <sup>TH</sup> Wednesday of Month	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Shefford Rd. / High St. / Rectory Rd. - all stops		08.48 /08.52	RR
<b>Cambridge, Downing St. – o/s John Lewis</b>		<b>10.15</b>	<b>14.10</b>
<b>W8A ST ALBANS</b>	- 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of Month		
Shefford Rd. / High St. /Rectory Rd. – all stops		08.48 /08.52	RR
<b>St Peters St. o/s Santander Bank / pickup opp Bank Stop 13</b>		<b>10.15</b>	<b>14.00</b>
<b>W10 ST NEOTS</b>	- 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of Month	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Rectory Rd. / High Street, / Shefford Rd. All stops		09.18 / 09.20	RR
<b>St Neots - Market Place</b>		<b>10.15</b>	<b>12.20</b>
<b>W11 MILTON KEYNES</b>	- 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Rectory Rd. / High St., / Shefford Rd. - all stops		09.08 / 09.10	RR
<b>MK - Midsummer Blvd / M&amp;S (Stop J3) / o/s John Lewis Stop E3</b>		<b>10.10</b>	<b>13.15</b>
<b>W12 HITCHIN</b>	- Every Tuesday	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Shefford Rd. / High Street / Rectory Rd - All stops		09.18 / 09.20	RR
<b>Bancroft Stop D</b>		<b>10.05</b>	
<b>Bancroft Stop G (Outside Oliver Bonas)</b>			<b>12.10</b>
<b>W14 WELWYN GARDEN CITY</b>	- 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of Month	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Rectory Rd. / High Street, All stops		09.14	RR
Shefford Road, All stops		09.16	RR
<b>WGC Central Bus Station</b>		<b>10.00</b>	<b>12.15</b>
<b>W16 STEVENAGE</b>	- 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each Month		
Rectory Rd. / High St. / Shefford Rd. – all Stops		09.34 / 09.37	RR
<b>Tesco Extra, The Forum Centre (opp Station)</b>		<b>10.05</b>	<b>12.10</b>
<b>M&amp;S, Roaring Meg Retail Park</b>		<b>10.10</b>	<b>12.05</b>

**EXCURSIONS – 4<sup>TH</sup> Thursday of Month – call For Details – 0300-123-3023**

**E: [Thewanderbus@gmail.com](mailto:Thewanderbus@gmail.com) Web: [www.wandrbus.org.uk](http://www.wandrbus.org.uk)**

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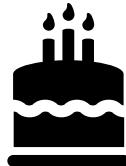
<b>23<sup>RD</sup> OCT</b>	<b>Milton Keynes Museum.</b> <b>Entry £17.50</b>	<b>Fare £10.00   Pickups 11.00/11.15</b> <b>a.12.15 d.15.30</b>
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*The Museum is made up of a number of buildings and barns. Explore 'old' Milton Keynes with Victorian farmhouse, Street of Shops, Telephone Gallery, Hall of Transport, Print Room and a café! A surprising and highly interesting museum.*

## **Birthdays**

We send birthday wishes to all those celebrating during this month.

A special Happy Birthday to Betty M, who will be 97 in October! Have a wonderful day, Betty - with warm regards from the whole Meppershall Messenger team.



## **Meppershall Football Club**

**September 16<sup>th</sup> Away to Lea PSG Result 1:1**

An away game this time – first of the season, at Pirton.

A very active start from the team, with the first goal of the match coming from Lee Shambrook. Unfortunately, the opposition soon equalised, and that was how the match ended – 1:1.

So, no victory, but not a loss. Except for our keeper, Lewis Osbourne, who injured his ankle, resulting in a trip to A&E and a support boot. Best wishes for a speedy recovery!

And another mention, this time for the fans who travelled to support us – dozens of you!

A big thank you all for making the effort. We really do appreciate you turning out to encourage us.

By the time you read this our next match will have come and gone, but keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates...





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**Please mention the Meppershall Messenger when responding to advertisements**

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\* Subject to availability.

## Useful Contact Details In Meppershall

### DEFIBRILLATORS – outside School, Village Hall and Budgens

### DOCTORS, DENTISTS, PHARMACIES

**NHS Direct**                    **111**

Dr Baxter & Partners

Shefford Health Centre, Robert Lucas Drive, Shefford SG17 5FS

Appointments                    01462 810034

General queries, prescriptions etc.                    01462 818620

Lower Stondon GP Practice

109 Station Rd Lower Stondon SG16 6JJ                    01462 850305

Shefford Dental Practice, 34 High St Shefford                    01462 814020

Shefford Dental Clinic, 99 Hitchin Rd Shefford                    01462 648465

Jardines Chemist, 7 High St Shefford                    01462 813283

Shefford Pharmacy, Health Centre, Robert Lucas Drive                    01462 818633

**Police:**                    **Emergency 999, non-emergency 101**

### Hospitals

Bedford Hospital                    01234 355122

Lister Hospital, Stevenage                    01438 314333

Luton and Dunstable Hospital                    01582 491166

### Utilities

Gas Emergency                    0800 111999

Anglian Water                    03457 145145

Electrical (power cuts, overhead cable down etc)                    0800 3163105

(Or 105 from a landline)

**Central Beds Council**                    0300 300 8301

CBC Councillor for Gravenhurst, Meppershall, Shillington:

Blake Stephenson                    [blake.stephenson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:blake.stephenson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

[hello@blakestephenson.uk](mailto:hello@blakestephenson.uk)

0300 300 8526

### Parish Council Clerk

Alessandre Marabese                    [clerk@meppershall-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@meppershall-pc.gov.uk)

### Member of Parliament:

Alistair Strathern MP                    C/O House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

020 7219 6004

[alistair.strathern.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alistair.strathern.mp@parliament.uk)

## St Marys Church

Rev. Veronica Goodman, The Rectory, Church Road 01462 339962

See full details in the church pages of The Meppershall Messenger

**Library:** High St Shefford 0300 300 8067

Tuesday – Friday 9am – 6pm, Saturday 9am – 4pm, closed Monday & Sunday

## Whitbread Wanderbus service

Stephanie Kirby [thewanderbus@gmail.com](mailto:thewanderbus@gmail.com)

## Food and Supplies

Budgens Stores, Post Office, High Street

Rogers Bakery, High Street 01462 813398

The Sugar Loaf, 25 High St 01462 239231

## Schools

Samuel Whitbread Academy, Clifton 01462 629900

Redborne Upper School, Ampthill 01525 404462

Henlow Academy 01462 813733

Robert Bloomfield, Shefford 01462 628800

Meppershall Academy, High Street 01462 813293

Meppershall Pre-School Village Hall, Ella Carey-Butler 07816 357159

[meppershallps@gmail.com](mailto:meppershallps@gmail.com)

Meppershall Munchkins, Melanie Choonos

[meppershallmunchkins@gmail.com](mailto:meppershallmunchkins@gmail.com)

## Organisations

The Players @ STMA, Karen Mitchell 01462 816336

Meppershall Good Neighbours (GNOMES) 07760 793921

Meppershall Brownies, Suzanne Brightwell 07817 392325

Shefford Guides, Angie Griffiths 07957 462519

Shefford Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers)

Kathy Georgiou 01462 629313

HATS Drama Group, Linda Winfield [lin.winfield5@gmail.com](mailto:lin.winfield5@gmail.com)

Meppershall Village Hall Trustees [trustees@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:trustees@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk)

Meppershall Village Hall Bookings [bookings@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk)

Bookings Tel. 07485 102727

## The Team And Collation Dates

### **CONTRIBUTIONS**

The Editor welcomes contributions to the Messenger, whether as letters, articles or notices. Contributions should preferably be as attachments to e-mail (address below) but handwritten contributions may be submitted. Contributions should run to not more than one A5 page (except by prior arrangement) and should ideally be received by the Editor not later than the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month, for publication at the end of that month (or by the later deadline date publicised by email or Facebook). Contributions received after the deadline may be held over.

### **DISCLAIMER**

The Editor reserves the right to omit or alter any advertisement or article and to change the content, format or issue date of the magazine without prior notice. The Editor cannot be held responsible for the factual correctness of, or for any libellous comment or statement made in any advertisement, article or other contribution published in this magazine. Every effort will be made to avoid any deliberate attempt to mislead or otherwise cause harm or damage to any person or persons by any advertisement, article or any other contribution published in this magazine.

### **THE TEAM**

Editor	James Read	Email: <a href="mailto:mepp.messenger@gmail.com">mepp.messenger@gmail.com</a>
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Treasurer	John Thompson	<a href="mailto:meppershallmessenger@meppershall.org">meppershallmessenger@meppershall.org</a>

### **PRODUCTION DATES AND DEADLINES**

*The table below shows the dates for collation of the magazine. The collation team generally meets at 2.30pm in the Village Hall on the collation date. Printing takes place 7 days prior to collation. The deadline for submissions is two Fridays prior to collation. Please look out for updates and alterations to usual plans when occasionally necessary. Can you spare some time to help produce the magazine? We would love to have you on the team! Use the contacts above to find out more.*

Issue date	Collation date	Issue date	Collation date
November 2025	Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> October	June 2026	TBC
Dec-Jan 2025-6	Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	July 2026	TBC
February 2026	TBC	Aug-Sept 2026	TBC
March 2026	TBC	October 2026	TBC
April 2026	TBC	November 2026	TBC
May 2026	TBC	Dec-Jan 2026-7	TBC

**Contact John Thompson to confirm arrangements (contact information above).**